

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry ad disguised as a journalistic documentary just a few days before the election is a clear example of how allowing a few mega-corporations to control the nation's broadcast media endangers our democracy. This consolidation gives one individual in a boardroom the power to control what millions of people see and hear, and to influence their votes by underhanded means.

The airwaves used by Sinclair to broadcast their political advertising disguised as journalism are not owned by Sinclair, they are owned by the public. Sinclair uses these public airwaves free of charge. In return, they agreed to provide the public with balanced reporting and to serve the public interest.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. This company is not serving the public interest. It is serving as a campaign arm of a political party. That is a violation of their broadcast license that warrants immediate and serious investigation.

Thank you.